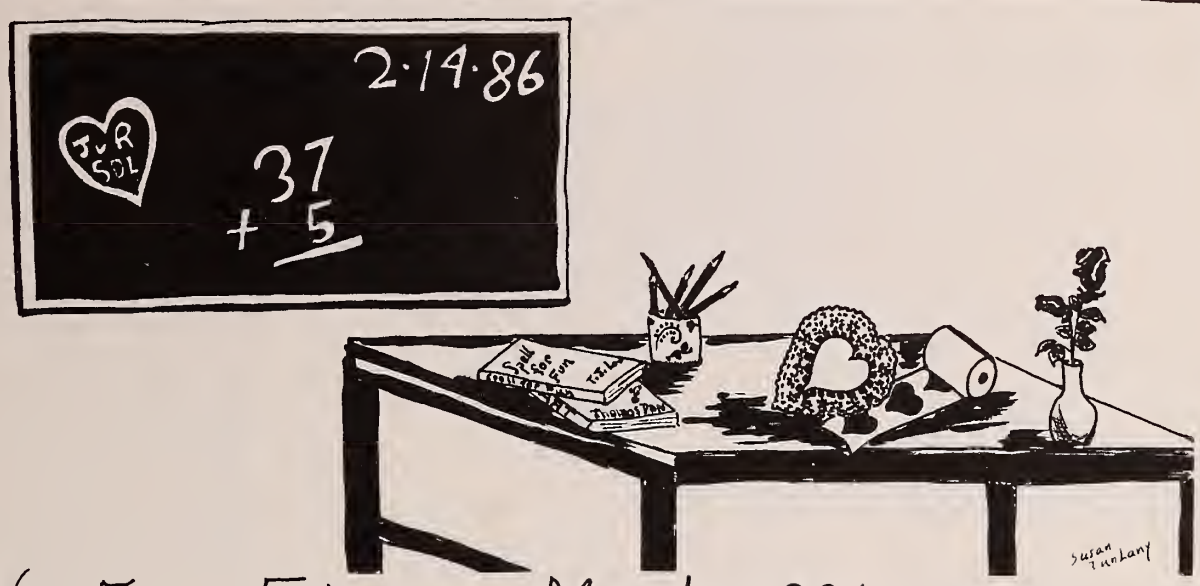
WENDELL POST



Vol. VIII No. 5 February-March 1986 25¢

What About Development Problem The Selectboard Responds

Jim Slavas

Affecting the course of development takes action, whether in the shape of formal restrictions, incentives or clear, persuasive leadership. Jim Slavas, chair of the selectboard, says he is "sure the town will start addressing development and begin to control and direct it." The time to begin, he said, is "now."

"I don't feel there's too much development going on," he said, "just the total unpreparedness of the town." There has been little progress in reaching a concensus on how to handle development, he acknowledged, and it even remains to "ascertain what people want the town to be." Jim himself would aim to retain the town's "own identity." He sees Wendell as "essentially a bedroom suburb," with "very little to give it identity. What it has is slipping away."

With an identity, unlikely "if all we have is commuters," Wendell may hold its young people, much as soil with roots in it will stay on a slope. If not, Jim said, "take our personal example. We built our place with the idea that it would be handed down from generation to generation. Once Wendell becomes another Sunderland or Pelham --a bedroom community--it'll result in social problems, alienation. And if there's nothing around to hold our kids, this place will end up a short-term home for Phyllis and me. The kids won't be held here."

cont' p. 6

Ted Lewis

Ted Lewis considers Wendell to be "near a crisis" in certain aspects of its development. Already, he says, "town services haven't kept up with development, the roads in particular. The fire department hasn't kept up." The type of development being experienced, he adds, has a negative impact on the tax rate. With land changing hands at the brisk rate it is today in town, he's afraid people will forget "land will always be valuable. Once it's developed, you can't undevelop it."

He is partial to the owner-builder style of development, and feels if "quality development" means the hiring of development planners, architects, contractors and landscape architects, something important in the heritage of Wendell will be lost.

The fact that we in Wendell "don't enforce our housing codes and bylaws too strictly" attracts some people in the housing market, he acknowledged. But "I don"t like to hurt a person when he's trying," he philosophized. "I'd rather see someone getting his house built slowly than see him sign his life away." Like the other two selectboard members, he built his house himself.

At present he says the greatest development pressure comes from Amherst and its booning educational economy.

cont' p. 6

State Moving Forward On Low Profile Route

Last September the DPW agreed to make an Engineering Feasibility Study of the Low Profile Alignment (LPA) proposed by the Route 2 Environmental Coalition. This will occur as an adjunct to the 25% Design Study to be performed on the South Bank Alignment (SBA) by Louis Berger and Associates of Wellesley.

On January 22, representatives of the Coalition met with the DPW and representatives of Berger to discuss the LPA study. The proposed study appears to be very thorough and the DPW seems to be honestly interested in showing that the LPA is indeed feasible.

This study is expected to take two or three months and will begin as soon as the contract between the DPW and Berger has been signed. It was originally thought that the contract would be signed in November or December of 1985, but it is now expected that the signing will occur in about 1½ months. This means that the Feasibility Study should be completed by June or July 1986 at the latest.

There was also discussion of the 25% Design Study of the SBA. It was agreed that Berger's first efforts on this study would be directed toward the Old Farley Landfill which lies on the path of the SBA since very little is now known of the landfill's contents and consequent disposal problems.

State Grant Helps Boost Teacher Salaries

Last July, Governor Dukakis signed into law the Public School Improvement Act of 1985. This was the result of over two years of study and debate by the legislature, and the Act will now be implemented over the next two years. It is a multi-faceted Act with many new provisions and requirements for public schools other than the much publicized grants for raising teacher salaries to $18,000.

A sample of these include curriculum assessments in each school every two years by testing all students in selected major curriculum areas at three grade levels; the addition of certification tests as a requirement for teacher certification; school and district evaluations will be done annually; and teachers and administrators will also be evaluated every one or two years by each school committee. Early Childhood Grants will be available on a competitive basis for the development of "innovative early childhood education programs," and Essential Skills Grants will be available on the same basis for remedial programs. The Teaching Learning Corps will provide pay for college students to serve as instructional aides in low-income school districts.

Other aspects of the Act, including the $18,000 minimum salary, were subject to town approval. Three separate grants were eventually accepted by Wendell after difficulty in obtaining a quorum for two special town meetings. The first meeting, held in November, accepted an Equal Education Opportunity Grant of $18,500. This grant was available in relative amounts to school districts which spend less than 85% of the statewide average of $2,400 per pupil. The money should be used to improve programs, purchase new supplies such as books, etc. "I like the idea," says Leonard Strauss, Principal at the Swift River School. "It's a good way to help distribute the state's wealth more equitably."

cont' p. 9

Inside Stories

History in the Depot, page 8

Dogs and Wendell--
articles and letters, pages 4, 6, 9

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Gasoline thefts at the Store, page 3

WENDELL POST

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Land Transfers

11-01-85 Cersosimo Lumber Co. to Douglas A. Baker. Rush Road.

11-07-85 Cersosimo Lumber Co. to Paul E. Daley and Jean M. Hatch. Jennison Road.

11-12-85 Cersosimo Lumber Co. to Peter V. Does and Sally A. Does. Jennison Road.

11-22-85 Tracy Testa and Read Auerbach to Read and Pamela D. Auerbach. Farley Road.

12-06-85 Kirsten C. and Audrey J. Anderson to Raeann M. and Aubin O. Maynard Lock Hill Road.

12-10-85 Roy C. and Catherine J. White to Fred R. Renfrew. Jennison Road.

Valentine's Dance

Friday Feb. 14 a Valentines Dance will be held at Wendell Town Hall. The dance, from 8:30 to 11, will feature the rock and roll band, "Gangly Heart." It will benefit the Rt. 2 Environmental Coalition. Tickets will be $4.00. Refreshments served.

Fire Log

11-20 Sears Rd. grass fire
12-6 Wendell Depot Rd. bridge fire
12-14 Montague Rd. and Dirth Rd. vehicle fire
12-20 Jennison Rd. sauna fire
1-5 Wendell Depot Rd. Bardsley residence chimney fire
1-26 Mutual aid to Orange

Police Log

12-2 Town loader tip over and vandilized on Montague Rd.
12-3 Two juvenile girls run away M.V.
12-8 Family dispute- Farley Rd.
12-12 One car accident- Farley Rd.
12-14 Stolen car found burned on Montague Rd.
12-21 Removed female DYS runaway from a trailor on Farley Rd.
12-23 Loud party on Farley Rd.
12-26 Arrested male juvenile on warrants
1-2 Emma Cappeluzzo reported Christmas trees cut down on front lawn
1-11 Helen Haddad reported Christmas trees stolen from property
1-26 One car accident on Jennison Rd. no injuries

Marriage

Kevin McKnight and Linda Pike were married on June 1, 1985. Kevin and Linda were married at Moore's Pond in Warwick. Congratulations!

Dump Notes

That new building at the Dump is not the Curator's Cabin. It is for newspapers, magazines and clear glass. When you use it, you don't have to pay for the removal of these items. Since they will be recycled you also help yourself by helping your planet.

Old batteries and tires should be left with the nice people who sell you new ones.

If you change engine oil, you can get an empty 5 gallon can from the Dump and Discount Center. Do not mix other stuff with crankcase oil. That wrecks its recycle potential.

Lorre Wyatt to Star

The Full-Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday Feb. 22 will present Greenfield's own Lorre Wyatt, folksinger extrordinaire. Lorre is an accomplished songwriter as well as singer whose performances somehow manage to banish the boundary between love and protest.

In addition, there will be two very special guests who, due to circumstances, cannot be named. Their presence and their music will be an honor for us. Doors open at 7:30.

Up and coming in the spring will be Dr. G's Medicine and, hopefully, Debbie Fier.

Fire Dept. Report

Chief Ricketts is now in the process of forming a new format in the Wendell Fire Dept. This will involve monthly officers meetings to establish new department policies, regulations, training responsibilities, and standard operating procedures. Along with this will be the introduction of new ideas and innovations, physical truck changes, drilling techniques, pre-fire planning and some administration work.

In the past, he has tried to do most of it alone, but found it just too much for one person to handle, especially now with the increasing work load from the various state agencies Arson Watch, Hazardous Materials, Right to Know Law, Forests and Parks, National Fire Protection Agency, and the Mass. Fire Academy, just to name a few.

All year long, faithful firefighters have offered and donated their time at the station, helping the Chief in various station and truck maintenance and repairs, and he is most appreciative. But running the department is really a full time job, so besides drill nights, monthly officers meetings will be incorporated. One of the first subjects on the agenda will be: establishing the formula for house numbers to all Wendell residents. This will help not only our dept. in quick responses, but also all agencies whether emergency or not. All in all, these meetings, with the input, should result in a smmother and more efficient running dept.

Notice

Notice: Do you have the Wendell Fire Dept. and the Wendell Police Dept. numbers posted on your phone? If not, they are gladly given out by Chief Ricketts, W.F.D. It is really hard to find emergency numbers in a hurry when you are scared. Get these numbers on your phone now, for your own peace of mind.

To report a fire: 4-3412
Station phone: 4-3500
Police Dept. Phone: 4-7448

Notice: Good additions to any "Welcome Wagon" offerings to your new neighbors are the Wendell Post Town Directory and the Wendell Police/Fire Dept. stickers. Through the "Post", you can contact Anne Diemand 4-6111 or Kathy Becker 4-2086 for these two items.

Procedure for Warrant Items

If a voter wishes to have a question on the town meeting warrant, it should start, "To see if the Town will vote to", etc., then it needs to have 28 registered voters sign it. Questions are not binding. After the question is signed it needs to go to the selectboard. The deadline is March 24, 1986, by 5 p.m.

Referendums are binding. If you want something that needs to be binding you need to go through the state. Please call the Town Clerk for more information about this.

Gas Pumps Idled

Anne Zak hopes to install a gasoline system and resume gasoline service at her store within the month of February...but finding the right system is not a simple matter of making a purchase.

Most common methods for monitoring gasoline pumps are very expensive -- too expensive for such a small-scale operation. The new computerized gas pumps cost about $6,000, which, Anne says, is probably more money than the store will make on gasoline sales in her lifetime.

Hiring an attendent for the pumps is out of the question because it would cost the store about five hundred dollars a month.

Thus, Anne will have to install an innovative security system. She is working on the problem with the Rice Oil Company and she says they think they've found a solution.

Zak made the decision to stop selling gas shortly after several people pumped more than they paid for and were discovered. When the time came to refill the gas tanks, she chose not to.

Although the incidents of gasoline thefts have been more frequent, the problem is not new. In 1982 Anne equipped the pumps with on/off switches but people quickly figured out how to get around them. She estimates the problem is twice as bad now as it was in '82.

She says the majority of the culprits are "young people from out of town who pay for five dollars worth, pump a few dollars more, and zoom off before we can see their license plates."

Selling gasoline in Wendell is not a profitable venture. Anne says she sells gas as a service to the community and does not expect to make money on the operation. Consequently, she cannot afford to take any losses.

She regrets the inconvenience to the Wendell community and the need for security measures. She feels most people are honest and understand her position. She expressed her appreciation for people's patience and understanding.

Several Wendellites approached were sympathetic. "Those few people have taken advantage of a person who's gone out of her way to help the members of this community," fumed Richard Alves.

Wendell residents can no longer buy a few gallons of gas to get them to the cheaper pumps between eight and fifteen miles away. "We're just luckly everything's downhill from here," said one resident.

Myron Becker suggested the town's rising population is leading to a sense of anonymity, which breeds theft and crime.

But response of the town citizens to the thefts suggests there is still a strong commitment among Wendell residents to maintain the town's warm, trusting pull-together community spirit.

- Marianne Sundell

Flag on town common
Wendell mourns the Crew of the Challenger.

Plea to Dog Owners

The Wendell Selectboard has asked dog officer Kenneth Wing to give them a list of unregistered and unconfined dogs in March.

Wendell has, as does Frnklin County, its own leash laws. Dog owners must in some way confine their pets, or in some way have them under their control.

Mr. Wing may levy a fine of $15 for picking up a loose dog. The second offense will be $25, and the third will be $40. Dogs must also be registered every year with the town clerk, (Anne Hartjens at the Wendell Depot Post Office.) The cost is $3 for a male or a spayed female, and $6 for a female.

PLEASE register your dog by March 1st to avoid a penalty. After then, Mr. Wing said he will be going house to house to pick up unconfined or unregistered dogs and said at that time a fee of $5 for registration could be given to him. "Let's save you and all the taxpayers money by getting this done by March 1st."

Lewis Isn't Keen On School Expansion

Selectman Ted Lewis is "cool" to the idea of expanding Swift River School. He thinks the growth in the population of school-age children will be slower than predicted, and says, the town can't afford another major construction project for education so soon.

"They need some improvements there, but not expansion at this point,"he says. He told the Post,"I drive around town and stop and introduce myself to new people and there aren't families moving into town with large numbers of children. There's no overabundance yet." By his estimate roughly as many children are to leave the system as there are to enter it in the next few years.

He criticized the way Swift River School was originally built. He said the way the foundations were dug and the architecture of the school itself, represented "poor planning". The Building Committee's refusal to hire a clerk of the works, according to him, created mistakes and inefficiencies. "Even now we are hearing the architects don't want interference from the outside," he said.

As far as expenses are concerned, he sees a pattern also repeating itself, "This every ten years coming back for more money for schools, it's ridiculous."

Lewis has been a member of the selectboard for 15 years and before that, an assessor.

Jonathan von Ranson

Positions Open for May Election

Terms are expiring this May for the ofices and current office holder listed below: (Most of the officeholders are running again.

Selectmen	
James P. Slavas	3 yr.
Assessors	
Pliny A. Stebbins	3 yr.
School Committee	
Christine Herd	3 yr.
Joseph Diemand	3 yr.
Library Trustee	
Judith Pratt	3 yr.
Paula Lavoie	3 yr.
Board of Health	
Virginia Schimmel	3 yr.
Planning Board	
Thomas Wetherby	5 yr.
	4 yr.
Constable	
Joseph Hartjens	3 yr.
Moderator	
Kathy Ann Becker	1 yr.
Tree Warden	
Daniel E. Bacigalupo	1 yr.
Road Commissioners	
Theles J. Blackbird	3 yr.

Final voter registration is April 15, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Nomination papers have to be in by March 24 at 5 p.m.

Avian Influenza Alert

The USDA Ames Laboratory has diagnosed an outbreak of Avian Influenza in a poultry flock in Westport, Mass. The birds will be disposed of immediately and surveillance will be put into effect under the state's Dept. of Animal Health.

The virus is the same type that caused the recent outbreak in Pennsylvania. Transmission by used poultry crates is suspected.

The symptoms are: Birds look very sick and very listless. The number of birds that will die will be about 10% a day. Also, watch the wild birds for symptoms.

Avian Influenza is a very severe and contagious disease. Take all precautions to isolate your flocks. If you have any suspicion of disease, call the diagnostic lab immediately: 413-545-2428.

Letters

TWO DOGS IN FAMILY LOST DURING DEER SEASON

To the Wendell Post:

Just before hunting season, rumors told of certain hunters gunning dogs. So when it began last Dec. 2, we kept my long time friend, Boulder, and his daughter, Lucy, locked indoors. But a nagging worry about the rumors left me unsatisfied with this arangement. The safety of us people concerned me, with the dogs asleep inside. (Our home is on Bear Mountain on the edge of the state forest.)

On Dec. 3, I decided to try to let Boulder and Lucy stay outside. Boulder, a 7 year old setter-collie-shepherd, was always more sober during hunting season. I hoped he and Lucy would obey the command to stay in the yard and let hunters know when they are getting too close to the house.

Immediately, both dogs having been cooped up for a day and a half, ran off. Lucy returned, acting nervous. Boulder never came back.

Grief and loss of a devoted friend were the cost of using them in this experiment as a warning signal. I should have tied them up or kept them indoors.

Thereafter, Lucy stayed inside, though there was no fear of her running off. On Saturday, less than five minutes after we let her out for a rest break, a gun was fired so close I jumped out of my chair. After shouting out the door, we put on our boots and coats and followed Lucy's footprints in the snow. Up the hill a short way her tracks met human footprints, and disaster. She lay there bleeding from a wound in her side, motionless. The house she was protecting could be seen through the trees, 450 ft. away--fifty feet inside the firearms safety zone. Logging work and two cordwood roads were signals of human habitation no hunter would miss.

From the signs, Lucy had heard someone on our land and had run toward him barking. She weighed about 30 pounds and might have frightened him, but I doubt it. She skidded to a stop when she saw a gun levelled at her, dodged a few feet, and was dropped with a single shot at about 20 feet. Her killer took off up the mountain.

I can't paint all hunters with the brush of this bloody incident (or the one four days earlier we didn't see), because both dogs were probably shot by the same person. In the seven previous seasons, hunters have been respectful of our place, and we have cooperated by not posting our land. Only two out of perhaps twenty personal contacts with hunters in these woods have been less than satisfactory, and there was nothing concrete in those two contacts, just bad vibes. (The same as I got from the rumors of hunters gunning for dogs).

But even with sensible hunters, there is great potential for trouble when so many are cut loose during so few days in such a confusing patchwork of hunting grounds. Throw in the availability of guns to even unbalanced persons and the alcohol factor and only a fool wouldn't be uneasy. Even many hunters are. (Myron Becker, himself a hunter, feels so uneasy he is formally proposing a task force to examine the situation statewide).

Another issue, deer and dogs (and hunters and dog owners) needs to be addressed. It's too emotional an issue for me to enter rationally right now, fresh from this trauma. Others should be the ones to consider our experience and the whole issue and address the following questions, among others:

- What is the present practice regarding dogs and their capacity to be destructive, versus their, and their owners' rights? What's the law?
- What is the present practice regarding hunters and their capacity to be destructive, versus their rights? What's the law?
- What adjustments would be desirable in the light of present conditions and understandings? Are there imbalances in the respective rights of hunters, dogs, dog owners, deer, the public at large, or wildlife at large?

Meanwhile, I'd be lying if I didn't admit we feel a little harrassed.

Jonathan von Ranson

THOUGHTS ON DOGS; Community and the Natural Environment

The population of Wendell has almost tripled since 1970. Inherent in such growth are many of the urban and suburban problems which we have tried to escape by moving to "the country." Allowing our dogs to run free probably ranks high on the list of perceived rural luxuries. This misconception rises from an unawareness of our impact on the natural environment we came to be close to.

A rural community can be defined by the higher ratio of natural (undeveloped by humans) to developed land. Humans must recognize themselves in conjunction with other life forms as part of the natural order, not above it, and we must acknowledge our capacity to impact more significantly on the global ecosystem. Because our domestic pets rely on us for survival, we become liable for their behavior and they become dependent on us for their health, safety and welfare. Free running dogs are more vulnerable to sickness and death. Dogs cannot be romantically perceived as free agents and allowed to further damage an already threatened ecosystem.

As the human population density of our community grows, (which it certainly will continue to do), it becomes increasingly more important to consider the needs of our neighbors. Dogs running free in the community harrass children, pedestrians, and livestock, become traffic hazards, cause litter, and disturb domestic tranquility. In the woods, dogs pack up and track down deer, often forcing them onto ice where the deer cannot travel as fast as dogs, taking them down by ham-stringing them, ripping open the paunch (often while the animal is still alive) and then return home to the warm hearth and a bowl of Purina. Frequently this takes place in mid-winter when the deer herd is stressed and the balance between life and death is precarious.

If we accept it as our obligation to lessen our negative impact on both the human and natural communities within which we live, and if we also accept our responsibility to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of our pets, then we must acknowledge that allowing our dogs to run free is an abrogation of all of these responsibilities.

Myron Becker
and
Robert Streeter

KLONDIKE SOUND CO.
Professional Sound Systems
SALES - RENTALS
STAGE MANAGEMENT
John "Klondike" Koehler
617-544-2744
WENDELL, MA. 01379

Joan Wendell Pawlish
14 Arborway
Wayside, NJ 07712

Wendell Post
Wendell, Mass.

Dear Staff Members:

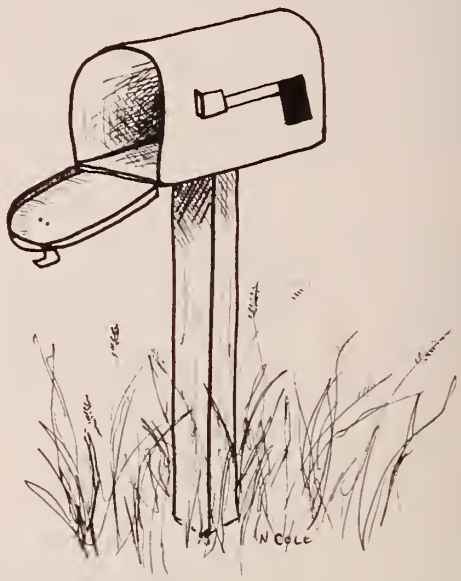
My son is a first year student at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, N.H. A few weeks ago we came up to visit him and also drove over to see your town. Since my maiden name is Wendell and I am a geneologist, I am very interested in your town history. Unfortunately, we arrived in the late afternoon and everything was closed except for the General Store.

We purchased your newspaper there and I thought the articles were very interesting. It sounds like the people in your town have a close relationship and are very active in local issues. I was particularly interested in your efforts to save Bear Mountain and I hope you will accept a small donation for this worthy cause.

I would appreciate it very much if someone could send me some information about your town's early history. Also, are there any souveniers I could purchase concerning your town or the Wendell State Forest? They would make great Christmas presents for my family.

Sincerely,

Joan Wendell Pawlish



Architects to be interviewed

Dear Parents and Members of the Community:

We want you to know that the New Salem/Wendell Building Committee is currently considering final candidates for architect for designing renovations and additions to the Swift River School. Although we know we are a long way from making specific recommendations to the Towns regarding the nature of the additions and renovations we are considering, selection of an architect is an important step along the way.

Final candidates will be interviewed on Wednesday, February 12th, beginning at 7pm at the Swift River School. The public is invited.

Leonard J. Lubinsky
Superintendent of Schools

Pictured from left to right: Sara, Lorenne, and Barry.

Temple Israel has its New Rabbi

The feeling of excitement at Athol's Temple Israel is subtle but unmistakable There is an eagerness about the unfolding future, like a child's anticipation of a special gift. There is real hope that this institutional vessel of an ancient tradition and its cherished values will endure. There is the relief that comes with new life, after a long and difficult gestation, fraught with fears of stillbirth. After twenty long years, Temple Israel has its own Rabbi!

And who is this teachers (rabbi means teacher) who passed up more prestigious and lucrative options to take up this challenge in Athol?

He is our neighbor, Barry Krieger.

When he is not doing rabbinical work in Athol or at the University of Massachusetts, he is transforming a condemned dwelling on New Salem's West Street into a home for his family. This seems to demand more time than the days have to give. Many of us know the feeling.

In addition to a new job and making a new home, Barry and his wife, Lorenne, will soon have a new baby! Barry's first and Lorenne's second. Sara, Lorenne's first child, is seven. Some Wendell-New Salem children are her classmates at the Swift River School.

Rabbi Krieger has a B.S. from UMass in Amherst where he taught 5th and 6th grades in the Wildwood Elementary School. He earned a Masters in Education from Temple University in Philadelphia and took his rabbinical training at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Pennsylvania between 1980 and '85.

Those years included a variety of enriching experiences, such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah instructor for two congregations, Student Rabbi with the Philadelphia Geriatric Center, High Holiday Cantor for the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, Adult Education Instructor in Jewish Liturgy and Rabbi at B'nai Jacob Synagogue in Phoenixville, Pa. for almost two years.

"Judaism" he says, "is like a multi-faceted gem. Each facet is complete, perfect and beautiful. Each facet compliments the other. There is Jewish music, Jewish dance, Jewish holidays, Jewish food, Jewish philosophy -- the whole range and depth of cultural phenomena. Together they are the gem of Judaism."

The Reconstructionist approach asks "How do you find meaning in life?" The Reconstructionist rabbi asks "How can I help you, so that the 'gem' can help you?" Barry describes the Reconstructionist school as the most American or democratic form of Judaism. It believes that one's lifestyle is a matter of individual choice.

I was fortunate to have attended Rabbi Krieger's first family Shabbat service in Temple Israel's beautiful sanctuary. This is a Friday evening worship that welcomes the Sabbath. The service was a blend of formal and informal, new and traditional Hebrew and English forms. He included a prayer of bodily motion that he had learned from Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb who had led a congregation of people with hearing problems.

The children seemed to enjoy the service too. Our seven-year-old, Chrystina, said that she wanted to go again.

I, a gentile, should have felt odd and uncomfortable in that unfamiliar place, of strange liturgy, among folks that I did not know. But I found them quite friendly and myself, quite at ease. I think my whole weekend was better because of the way it began.

Parker Cleveland

Diemand's Egg Farm
617 544-3806

SOME TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

On the second Friday of each month there will be a family Shabbat service at 7:30 pm.

On the fourth Friday of each month there will be a traditional Shabbat service at 8 p.m.

Adult education classes will begin on February 23.

For more information about Temple activities call Barry at home, 249-5302, or at Temple Israel, 249-9481.

Bob Weiner Comments On Coffeehouse Theme

Your Full Moon Coffeehouse on Jan. 25 was great! On a snowy cold night you had a packed house to help the Route 2 Environmental Coalition. I was happy to join you.

Wendell is a model of environmental sensitivity. It is not worth saving five minutes in the drive from Boston to Greenfield to disrupt our natural beauty. I will fight with you.

The environment is a no-compromise, gut issue. The protection of the planet must be paramount over any economics--or there will be no economics to play with. A strong Clean Air Act, protection against acid rain, making rivers and lakes clean, and fighting against dumping hazardous waste of nuclear chemicals are the highest priorities for me.

Folks are talking about a hazardous dump site just north of the state border--and the truckers will go on Routes 63, 91, and 2 to get there. That is an atrocity. I'll fight to protect us.

The battle will not be easy. He's been there 28 years, but people don't know he voted to kill Medicare, voted to weaken social security, voted against tax reform, was absent on key votes to stop the MX missile and Star Wars, has a very mixed environmental record, and is the lowest ranking congressman in Mass. on labor issues.

Your music is beautiful. Court Dorsey's great rendition of "Their Way" as a variation of "My Way" has a serious message, too. Let's make the Congress "Our Way," so that the folks in Wendell will have a voice and not a stone wall in Washington and here in the district.

Bob Weiner
Candidate, First Congressional District

Burnett Builders
544-3430
Wendell Ma.

Horseshoeing
Tony Diemand 544-3806

Development Problems: Michael Idoine

Michael Idoine doesn't see Wendell's current rash of new houses and building lots as a crisis, though he's by no means satisfied with the towns leadership in the shape of its physical development. "We have to get people to put energy into planning now, or be mopping up development problems in 15-20 years," he said.

He's less concerned about the growing quantity of houses in town than he is about the function and aesthetics of how and where they're built. "The siting of houses now along the main roads gives the impression of the town being highly developed," he said. For one thing, he'd like to see "neighborhoods more developed" and the area outside them, if possible, less. "If open land were more visible, people would appreciate it more," he said.

Michael leans toward clustering houses and clustering open space, to achieve the social advantages of neighborhoods (and the fewer miles of roads necessary to serve them) and the environmental benefits of large tracts of dedicated open space.

He's not sure how this is achieved given custom and patterns of land ownership in Wendell, but "A basic tool, a master plan of development, is not yet available. It would be useful to work from."

Does concentrated residential development conflict with the town's hydrology? Not in terms of the quantity of groundwater available, he suspects, but its quality might be compromised. "What concerns me is what would happen to those of us who depend on shallow wells: the interrelationship between them and septic systems." He said Wendell's water table is periodically close to the surface, hurting the ability of the soil to "process toxic material".

There is another sense in which he says he "could be convinced we've developed too much: in density we've probably matched the highest the town ever had." He said Wendell once had 1,200-2,000 people. With family units of that time larger than they are now, that would translate to roughly the present number of houses.

The significance of thes fact? It represented a time when the local economy was relatively self-contained; today's enjoys a great deal of importation of food and other supplies including fuel cheap enough for distant commuting, and in return exports finished goods and trained people (e.g., university students). The earlier kind of economy would tend to resurface if energy supplies were to become scarce. "Wendell is dependent on the car", Michael said. "If there were no cars, it's safe to bet the population would be less than 50% of what it is."

But he's accepting the car as a given at this point. "Macro-planning issues" like where the town's food comes from are secondary. Michael recollects as "almost a cliche" the concerns of "those of us who wanted to go back to the land or live in a cabin". Today, he observed, "some are going to an urban setting, some are leaving Wendell."

Rather than "outguess future economic forces," he would take the present swing of the pendulum and guide it according to advanced concepts of "graceful" development.

A long range tool he favors looking closely at is community land trusts: "one tool to limit development and develop properly." He said this concept is "possible for Wendell." It accepts or buys land and limits its use according to charter restrictions.

Another is the limited development concept, in which a group interested in restraining development obtains rights to a parcel that is on the market, subdivides a portion of it and utilizes the proceeds to pay off whatever interim financing was necessary, and dedicates the rest a permanent open space.

This can create expensive housing, since its object is to leverage the largest possible open space with the smallest possible loss of land to development. But all creative development isn't more expensive, Michael said. "A plan for Wendell might run toward multiple family dwellings"...possibly by use of a revolving loan fund which catered to developers of duplexes or apartments.

He says he's not a fan of interim measures like a moratorium on approval of new building lots on the grounds that they would tend to "prolong the problems, and tend to spread the development more," but said, "the planning board might at least look into stopgap measures." If a moratorium were declared, he said it would "be incumbent on the Town to show it was improving its ability to handle its development pressures equitably," e.g. through a master plan in the making.

As to whether Wendell's wetlands are protected sufficiently, he called that "an important question. There are no places now zoned against development, either for wetlands, wildlife protection or community planning."

The act of planning for Wendell's future has to come to a focus in a process in which these advanced concepts and people's visions for Wendell can mix. Said Michael, "The Planning Board has to empower itself to plan."

Jonathan von Ranson

cont' from front page
JIM SLAVAS

Entwined with that, Jim said, are many specific matters. Like narrowing options in both residential and official town government land use patterns, especially in Wendell Center. Like protecting (and figuring out how to utilize in a changing energy future native resources like Wendell's woods and its Millers River. For that matter, like figuring how to utilize its citizens. Filling positions on boards and commissions isn't easy these days and Jim Slavas said this may be one of the best ways a citizen can help decide whether or how the town gets built up.

Citizens might also consider protecting the openness of their land by giving it to one of the conservation organizations and keeping tenancy for life. Or giving it to the local Whetstone Wildlife Sanctuary.

The head of town government also invited citizens to "push the town" for their vision of Wendell's development future.

He sees the tax effects of development as coming in cycles: "It would have helped to stop development four years ago, before population increases made it necessary to do the current school addition." He suspects there's a similar threshhold ahead, when the town outgrows its present facilities for personal property protection--police and fire. "It's definitely in the town's best interest to avoid crossing these threshholds," he said. He thought these large capital expenditures outweigh the effect of incremental increases in operating expenses of a town with an expanding population. The result in his view, is a tax situation where "It makes more sense to let a town grow until that (threshhold)."

He dislikes the idea of a moratorium on building permits or subdivisions, calling it "indefensible against legal challenge." "You need to show an imminent threat to the town," he said.

He is "equivocal" about increases in lot sizes and frontage requirements. He insists that by themselves they "do nothing. If you connect them with other, more innovative approaches, sure."

He opposes the idea of encouraging landowners to inform neighbors of their decision to sell, since "I have no rose'colored vision of people in Wendell," who he says are as likely to develop the property as anyone else. For the same reason he wouldn't favor economic incentives favoring Wendell buyers, though he said he could see paying for surveys if, for example, the property were being put into "a trust, or a sanctuary, or classified forest. That would be something else."

He thinks Wendell needs to obtain land "for expansion of town facilities," probably near the Center, and possibly for aquifer protection. He also thinks key open space parcels should be purchased when available, such the property that includes Fiske Pond.

Jim hopes the town meeting in May will consider the formation of a long-range planning group. He sees this body as "encouraging the Planning Board in its drafting of a master plan and the filing of an open space plan."

Jonathan von Ranson

cont'from front page
TED LEWIS

Asked whether development to the point of saturation is ineveitable here, he was emphatic. "No! I hope there's not another house built in town. I know you can't stop people from selling land, and per capita we're a poor town. But I encourage people to hang onto their land, and I hope they don't sell it."

"Our assessors are fair," he said, and he encouraged the use of Chapter 61, the property tax reduction program for woodland owners who develop a state-approved management plan for their property. The 60 acres he and his wife own on West Road is under Chapter 61 "so we can hold onto our land," he said. "There won't be development near me.

Do some of these reduced-tax arrangements have the effect of hurting Wendell tax-wise? "Under Chapter 61,"he said, "there's a forest products tax paid to the town. Some of the assessment is off the tax rolls, but new houses won't be adding to the load on the schools, police department, fire department, roads, dump. I think the town is better off."

As to what citizens can do, he encouraged them to work together "to create programs and bylaws to stop growth." (He said the selectboard is working with the planning board to arrange a long-range planning mechanism.) And in their own property decision making, "If they want to sell, instead of selling to the state (which is interested in certain Wendell parcels to round out its state forest holdings), why not sell to the town?"

Meanwhile, Ted said the selectboard is working with the planning board to get the road system classified. The object is to declare certain stretches formally non-maintained by the town. This move would render them unqualified for building lots because, under the town's zoning bylaw, frontage of an acceptable building lot must be on a maintained town-owned road.

For the annual town meeting in May, Ted said he'd like to see a moratorium proposed on building in Wendell "until we get a master plan." Short of that, he favors an increase in the minimum lot size. "The lot size bylaw should be the easiest to get through." He said he'd increase it to three acres, and frontage to a 200-ft. minimum.

cont' p. 7

cont' from p. 6
TED LEWIS

He admitted these restrictions would hurt "the ones doing most of the building, the young people." But the change would relieve some development pressure while a Master Plan is prepared, and would protect Wendell's water supply, which he said has potential problems of quality. He worries that "The water table is sometimes high, and septic leaches to wells."

He encourages anyone selling property in Wendell to first tell the neighbors to lessen turnover and channel the urge to protect open space around them to help curb development.

Ted favors creation of land trust and town purchase of particular parcels as other ways to keep houses from beginning to jostle each other along Wendell's side roads and thoroughfares.

by Jonathan von Ranson

To Aurelia Brewer

As I wander through this resting spot
In the short rays of the winter sun
Time is out of focus, and I am out
Of the present and into another place.
The light glances from my coated arm
To where your black slate stone projects itself
Spanning a hundred and forty four years
To bring us together for awhile.
The maple trees that line the meadow road
Were only saplings as you walked the land;
And miles of stonewalls slowly crumbling now
Were newly set in place by sweating men.
The common where the local young folks play
Saw volunteer militia on parade
While you stood by in trailing homespun dress
And long dark boots to watch the soldiers pass.
You went from here across the field to school
The old school with convenience out of doors,
With peeled ash flagpole leaning in the sun
And groups of children forming into lines;
At noon you sought a spot below a towering oak
And lunched on crusty bread and applesauce;
You searched for wild grapes on the vine in fall
And found the first wild trillium in May.
No record tells of how you died or why
A girl of twelve before the bloom of spring,
A sad and tragic day it must have been
And sadness filters through the years to me.
And yet our numbered days
Extend the chapters in the book of life
And give dimension to a shaft of light
Which touches on a quiet afternoon.
This tale has no beginning and no end.

- Marilyn A Morin

Note: Aurelia Brewer lived in the 1800's and is buried in the Center cemetary.

Robert Streeter

Smallpox Cemetery

Lessons From Dust

A friend of mine derives a good deal from the old burial grounds that dot our landscape and maintain the age-old heritage of how we treat our dead. The insights are not only about the past, but about those that live and breathe and wander through cemeteries on cold November mornings. Somewhere he once said that cemeteries tell us more about the living than the dead. If nothing else, they offer a temporary refuge of tranquility, often solitude; time for one's mind to do what it will.

Our species is usually satisfied with terse, well-packaged descriptions of people and most describe my friend as a radical preacher. A less terse and more interpretive description would call him a writer, historian, and Presbyterian minister; an intellectual who prefers reality, mystery and myth over dogma. His midwestern church went from some 400 members to perhaps 75 after he signed on. I guess Sunday morning just wasn't as comfortable as it used to be. But when he comes to these parts, Sunday morning or not, my cabin door is wide open. He showed up awhile back, and we struck out one morning to see an old burial ground or two. It was a Sunday, as I recall.

We followed a narrow and rocky one-lane road which winds through a section of forest where nobody lives. Our destination was a tiny rectangular stone wall, a few leaning tombstones, and a white picket gate that no longer works: Smallpox Cemetery. It is far from the town's main cemetery, alone in the forest with only a handful of remains, not far from a swamp where other banished creatures live and die. Jemima and Lydia Sawyer are buried there in the shadow of a majestic white pine. They were mother and daughter, both cut down in the 1830's by the dreaded disease. Jemima was 54, and Lydia a young woman of 22 who barely had time to see who she was, time to linger in cemeteries on cold November mornings and reflect on those who came before her. They were feared as they died and feared after death, so their people took them to the hinterlands of town, through the forest and past the swamp, and tucked them away.

We followed that same route to the center of town, the route that the Sawyer women must have traveled in light-colored caskets of pine, and we stopped at the neatly kept cemetery where those who have died of causes less feared reside. The cemetery blends nicely with the one-room library, the town hall, the church, and the town green; each holding strength of character and beauty as individuals, but embellished when melded as one. Sugar maples rise thick and tall above the smooth black stones of slate that mark the graves. The sap is sweetened from the joys and struggles of another time. We shuffled through wind-blown piles of leaves from one stone to the next, forever touched by names like Patience Death who graced these hills for 97 years. Patient indeed.

We made vocal the firm and silent messages upon the stones. "Behold my grave as you pass by, as you are now, so once was I. But as I am, so you must be, prepare to die and follow me." The messages from the dead admonished us from every corner of the cemetery. "Life is fleeting and uncertain," they seemed to say with just a touch of spite, " so piece together whatever fragments of mystery and certainty you can and live it to the fullest, because your number is next." Ebenezer Johnson left an epitaph as crisp and cold as the maroon colored slate that marks his grave: "Come hither mortals, cast an eye, then go thy way, prepare to die; think on thy doom! for die thou must, one day like me be turned to dust."

My friend and I are both content with the reality and finality of death and dust, and revere the beauty of that dust as it cycles from the maple to the man and back again. The thought of an expensive, tightly sealed coffin is anathema to me. Let my body mix quickly and quietly in concert with the elements from which I came, and do not deny me in death the wise and intimate natural connections I strived for in life. Put me in a simple casket of pine if you must, and take me to the hinterlands of town, through the forest and past the swamp, and tuck me away with the trees and the silence, and the dust of the Sawyers.

Robert Streeter

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Wendell's Oldest Families...

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It was in the early forties when we migrated from Southern Connecticut to Wendell Depot and became the new owners of the old Putnam Place, now owned by Doug Johnson.

House, barn, garage, 60 acres more or less, all for the inflated asking price of $3,800. We failed to dicker for a better price and the natives all had a big laugh at those city slickers getting taken.

We settled in with six kids and in a few years it would be eight. I still worked in Connecticut and came home on weekends. The trip home will always be one of my favorite memories.

The old coal fired steam engines puffed out a lot of smoke and soot and caused a certain inconvenience in summer travel with the windows open and no air conditioning, but it was worth it. No sound on earth compares with the unbridled wail of a steam whistle. Each engine had it's own song and each engineer had his own way of playing it.

The trip north ended at Greenfield, with a change to the B&M East. Here the engine was of an earlier vintage and some of the coaches were of the old wooden type. Stops were made at Montague, Millers Falls, Erving, Orange and points East. My ticket was for Orange.

The second time up I told the conductor that I lived in Wendell Depot and from then on he always made a special stop and let me off at Gibbs' Store. In past years that is where the station was located. This is the old Gibbs' Store that was between the tracks and the new bridge, which is of course gone now.

Another building that is missing from today's scene is the old Brown place, a big house located on the triangle just south of the tracks.

Old Mr. Brown still walked to Orange when he was in his nineties. I never saw him when he wasn't freshly shaved, rosy-cheeked and dressed for a convention or for church. He had a sharp mind and was a joy to talk to.

The Dexter House has also succumbed to the time changes. The one-time hot spot of the Depot is now an empty shell.

After two years, I gave up commuting and took a job at the Erving Paper Mill and started a second-hand and antique store in our barn. This was an interesting but losing proposition. After a number of setbacks I realized that if I was going to deal with Yankee Traders, I was going to have to learn to think like one.

A successful Yankee trader is a rough combination of a semi-honest horse thief and a Southern Baptist minister. I never did get my masters degree but we managed to eke out a living and meet a lot of interesting people.

We all know the great change in property values over the last few years but I wonder if some of the newcomers are aware of the radical change that it has been?

In the late forties I bought at a land auction in Wendell, fifty acres of land with a two-story house, with one room on each

floor. The price was $225. In a few years I sold the timber off for $3,000 and then sold the land for $500.

Our eight children went to school in Wendell and then on to New Salem. Ray Clark and Maude Merchant were the school bus drivers and regardless of the weather they were always on time. There were no snow days back then. The town plowed the roads and the kids went to school.

Town meetings were always a high point of life in Wendell. Harry Thayer was the moderator and the towns' most eligible bachelor. His motto was "why own a cow when milk is cheap?" We argued all items pro and con, and when things really got heated up it usually deteriorated to things of a personal nature that can't be repeated in a family newspaper.

To get back to kids, when anyone got sick or broke a bone back then, things were quite different than today. Few people had insurance.

Our doctor was Dr. Mahar of Orange. He not only made house calls, he made them day or night, rain or shine. With a broken arm or leg, he'd feel the break, set it and put it in splints. There were no X-rays. If a kid was sick, he'd come in and park his cigar at any handy place, window sill or on top of the piano; once he had me hold it for him during the examination.

When he finished his diagnosis, he'd open his bag, measure out some pills, then he'd look around the room and count..."That all the kids?" he'd ask. Given the answer, he'd open the bag again and come out with a hanful more. "They'll all come down with it, so this should do it."

There would be no prescription, and no extra charge, all was taken care of for a $2 house call. Office calls were $1.

Times have changed.

-- Walter G. Miller

Note: The MIllers lived in town from 1945 until 1958 when they returned to Connecticut. Subsequent job changes predicated moves to Maryland and New Jersey before his retirement and ultimate return to Massachusetts.

Walter Miller is well-known for authoring the novel The Treasure of Brewsters Neck which he had published in 1978.

His wife of fifty years, Alice Miller, died this past June. Miller keeps busy with a wide variety of hobbies: wood carving, metal-detecting, writing, gardening and being the patriarch of the ever-increasing family still living in the area.

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Town Meeting Report

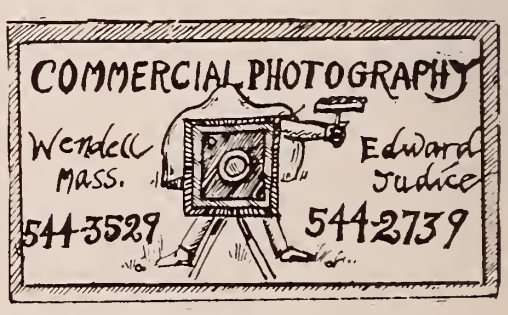
Many thanks to those Wendell residants who came out to conduct town business at the Dec. 19th Special Town Meeting. Attendance was no what it might have been, but a quorum was present, thanks to the efforts of these Wendell citizens:

Ted Lewis Selectboard
Jim Slavas Selectboard
Annie Hartjens Town Clerk
Kathy Becker Moderator
Harlan Gilbert Finance Committee
Joseph Hartjens Constable
Charles Thompson Smith
Kathleen Nolan
Carol Diemand
Joseph Diemand
Elizabeth Scully
Gladys Powling
Jim Woodward
Philip Momnie
Dorothy Claire Green
Faith S. Diemand
Regina Howarth
Howard C. Clark
Mary Cunningham-Gilman
Christine Heard
Daniel Botkin
Dorothy McIver
Bob Streeter
Sylvia Wetherby
Anne Diemand
Phyllis Brooks
Dick Baldwin
Phyllis Lawrence
Nina Keller
Kathleen Bridgewater
Nancy Spittle
Myron Becker
Jessie Wetherby
David Froebel

Thenk you also to Regina Howarth, Clerk to the Selectboard; and Leonard Strauss, Principal of New Salem/Wendell Union School, who spent a good amount of time calling people about the meeting.

Hopefully, we will grow towards getting to town meeting on our own initiative. A wide variety of opinion is needed to run a fair and wise town government. Remember, you can't very well complain about how money is spent if you are not there to vote when the articles are being decided.

Kathy Becker
Wendell Moderator



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cont' from front page
STATE GRANT

At a town meeting held in December, a small gathering voted almost unanimously to accept grants in two forms: Minimum Teacher Salary Grant and a Professional Development Grant. The former, with state funds, will raise the salaries of teachers already on staff and earning less than $18,000 to that amount. The latter, also with state funds, will offer a sum of money, a "bonus" in effect, to those already earning more than $18,000; an attempt to reward those teachers not receiving the benefits of the Minimum Salary Grant.

Regardless of these grants, all Swift River teachers will be receiving 8% salary increases for fiscal years "87 and "88 as agreed at the annual salary negotiations between teachers and the school committee. Strauss is pleased: "It brings our salaries into line with most of the surrounding school districts and, in so doing, gives our teachers a sense of being appreciated and respected for the important role they play in the education of the children here."

Also included in those negotiations was the elimination of the bottom two pay steps on the salary schedule during the next two years. This means that at the beginning of fiscal '89, the bottom step of the salary schedule will be about $18,000. In the meantime, all Swift River teachers not earning $18,000 for fiscal '86 and '87 will have their salary boosted to that level by the Minimum Salary Grant. When the grant money is gone at the end of fiscal '87, all but one teacher will be at or above the $18,000 mark, and Leonard Lubinski, Superintendent of Schools, foresees little or no additional costs to the town. He admits, though that "this is some very complicated legislation."

Robert Streeter

Cookie Sale

Girl Scouts from the Western Massachusetts Council will be taking orders for Girl Scout cookies from Feb. 8 through Feb. 23 for delivery April 15 to May 2.

The seven varieties of cookies being offered this year are Caramel de Lites, Chocolate Chip, Lemon Pastry Creme, Peanut Butter Patty, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Shortbread and the ever popular Thin Mint.

All varieties are baked with vegetable shortening; contain no artificial preservatives; freeze well and, are kosher. They are baked especially for Girl Scouts by ABC-Interbake Foods.

The cookie sale gives girls an opportunity to earn funds for their troop activities and to develop good sales techniques and self-confidence. In addition, those girls selling 60 or more packages are granted credits that can be applied to the fees for Girl Scout camping or other council-sponsored activities. The council portion of the profit is used to provide direct services to girls; to purchase equipment; and, to maintain and develop properties in their behalf.

Anyone wishing to order cookies who is not contacted by a Girl Scout may call the Council Office listed in the white pages under Girl Scouts.

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Dog Laws in Flux

According to Mass. Laws, Chapter 140 Sec. 151A and 158, a dog officer or constable can shoot a dog that is causing a problem. If the dog has been running loose, the officer must first hold the dog for 10 days, and check its description against those dogs licensed in his town. Wendell dog officer Kenneth Wing cites these laws in his effort to curb dog problems in Wendell.

Now under dispute, according to Administrative assistant Deborah Radway, is a law that in 1983 made it mandatory that the dog officer take a dog to be destroyed to a licensed veterinarian. There was to be no more shooting. This mandate, however, has come upon challenges from towns on the basis of the extra cost (the mandate is not funded by the state.) Until this dispute is settled or the town votes at town meeting to uphold the mandate, dog officers may still shoot problem dogs.

A law regarding dogs that are assaulting a person or his/her livestock states that this person may shoot (kill) the offending dog. (Chap. 140, Sec. 156)

However, he agreed that a hunter cannot legally shoot a dog. But, in his opinion, "You'd have to have a witness standing right there watching, or it would never stand up in court."

Chapter 272, Sec. 85A states that whoever with wrongful intent kills, maims or carries away a dog shall be liable in tort to its owner for three times its value.

Town of Wendell
Massachusetts

Town Letterhead Contest

Competition to design new Town letterhead is open to all Wendell residents. The Wendell Selectboard is looking for a fresh letterhead for its stationery, a design that will represent "a sense of what is Wendell" to correspondents to the town.

Designs should be made to fit and should be submitted on the top 2 3/4" of an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of plain white paper.

Entried should be submitted to the selectboard by Dec. 17, 1985. Conceptual, carefully drawn entried will be accepted.

When a winner is chosen, she/he will be notified by the Selectboard and their entry will be published in the following Wendell Post.

No entries were received, and the Board has decided to postpone the deadline in hopes that some Wendell person will try their hand at designing the new letterhead.

Utility Rights of Way Not Snowmobilers' Province

TO THE WENDELL POST:

We are writing to supply further information about the lawful operation of snowmobiles and other off-road vehicles (see "3-Wheeler Warning" article in the Dec.-Jan. issue).

Chapter 266, Section 121A of the General Laws of Massachusetts reads in part as follows:

"Whoever, without right, enters upon the private land of another, whether or not such land be posted against trespass, and in so entering makes use of or has in his immediate possession or control any vehicle, machine or device which includes an internal combustion engine or other source of mechanical power, shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred and fifty dollars."

Note that the land need not be posted and that the penalty does not require that any damage be done. There are additional penalties in case of damage.

There is also considerable confusion about the ownership of land within utility rights-of-way. This land is not publicly owned and in fact even the utility only owns a right-of-way across it. The land itself is privately owned and the right-of-way is only for use by the utility for construction and maintenance purposes.

Thus Chapter 266, Section 121A also applies to land under power lines so that in particular the users of snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles are subject to a $250 fine if they operate them under the power lines without specific permission from each owner of all the land they cross.

-- Mason Phelps

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DAVID WILDER JUDY WILDER

Wendell's Dump Custodian Once Moved Trash In Newark

Parker Cleveland unlocks the driveway gate; the Wendell Dump is open for business. It is eight o'clock Saturday morning.

Parker accepted the position of dump custodian last winter. He had been out of work for eight months because of a back injury. The job was the "perfect opportunity". It wouldn't be too physically demanding on his back, and the part-time hours wouldn't interfere with his house-spouse duties. His wife, Dottie, teaches in the Head Start project in town, leaving Parker to get their two daughters off to school and greet them when they come home.

A line of usable items that Parker has salvaged from the garbage adorns the curb in front of the compactor. Today there are wicker baskets, a How and Why book, an electric popcorn popper that works, clay pots, and deposit bottles. Parker takes the time to display the items so that people who want them will take them home. He does it because it is neighborly.

Four years ago Parker's house burned down. People from all over Wendell came to lend a hand. Even folks who Parker had written off as "unfriendly" showed up ready to help. "That was a big lesson about not judging people, because I clearly had been. I cheated myself of friends and the people of the high opinions they deserved," recalls Parker.

The compactor also serves as a community bulletin board. A Doonesbury comic strip and posters of coming events line the metal walls. The events, usually political, hint at what Parker is about.

Fifteen years ago Parker, Dottie, and their oldest daughter Cara moved to Wendell. They purchased a woodlot and put a trailer on it. That left them with fifteen dollars in their pockets. Neither Parker nor Dottie had a job. "I remember that as an idle time because I didn't have enough money to buy a shovel," said Parker. They lived on surplus food, usually jelly and white flour, and local plants until Parker got a job as a lumberjack, and some side jobs painting houses. Once the cash flow (often a trickle) came, they broke ground for their home. It took ten years to complete. During those years Parker viewed himself primarily as a homesteader, "someone who works the earth to provide food and shelter for his family. I'd work a job in the winter for the cash, then quit in the summer. I needed to be home chopping wood and planting flowers."

Following in Parker's sharing footsteps, much more than garbage is being dropped off at the dump these days. In front of the large bin that holds discarded items such as matresses and carpet, sits a collection of reusable goods. The supply, replenished regularly, might contain a kitchen stool or that oak chair you've always wanted. Wendell residents welcome this change in the dump.

The metal section of the dump grows a little larger every dump day. Washing machines, refrigerators, and stoves stand neatly at attention surrounded by hundreds of smaller metal objects like tire rims. Someone is sorting through and pulls out a silver bucket. "This aluminum?" he asks. Parker taps it and replies, "Yep, it's aluminum."

Parker was born in 1941 when his brother Gene was four years old. Gene tormented Parker every chance he got. "I think my brother set me up to identify with people who are getting a raw deal."

As a young man, Parker turned his interest to government. He wrote a paper on the 1961 Presidential election in Viet Nam. His research led him to the conclusion that Viet Nam was a democracy on paper and a police state in reality. He became anti-system. "Any system will work when consisted of all saints," he says. "Personal or internal growth is what it's all about."

Parker's dump office could be wrongly identified as a shack. Indeed, it has all the comforts of home. Parker has furnished it with a soft chair and a stool to rest his feet. Treasures pulled from the garbage occupy every space. The structure surrounded by bicycles and bathroom fixtures, keeps Parker dry in the rain and warm in the winter. A small woodstove is the heat source. Parker uses the office to do alot of his thinking.

Today Parker thinks of his father who died last September. Parker still thinks of him as "is" rather than "was". He also thinks about what he will do with the rest of his own life. Stanley, Parker's father, worked as a chemist in the food industry. Upon retiring, he invested money through an investment firm so that he and his wife would have more than social security to fall back on. "You never know how much pressure a rainy day can bring," says Parker. Parker knows how much his father loved the natural world and wonders what he would have thought if he knew where his money was being invested. "He was the type to give money to organizations like the Audubon Society. It's hard to imagine his money going to some environmentally polluting company," says Parker. Parker thinks he might get involved in a career of investment screening. He believes you don't have to invest in "slave factories" to get a return. He figures he will do it if he can "still have loam under my fingernails on a regular basis." He looks out the door and says, "Of course I won't give up the dump.

Ruth Wynkoop

Szechuan Dumplings Are Hot Stuff At New Oriental Restaurant

King Sing Restaurant, 46 West Main St., Orange automatically gets 20 points for being open seven days a week until 10 pm and being only 10-20 minutes away for most of us in Wendell. However, they immediately lose 20 for the startlingly tawdry Salmon Pink on Canary Yellow color scheme. Once inside the old Drum, we can take comfort in the not unsoothing ambience and do what we came to do: eat.

Let's start with a Hot and Sour Soup. A standard on the menus of Szechuan/Mandarin/Hunan variety of Chinese eatery, King Sing's version is one of the richest we've tasted west of Boston. Almost a stew of pork, egg, tofu, cloud-ear mushrooms and slivered bamboo shoots in a piquant brown broth, the soup was not quite spicy/hot enough for our tastes but delicious anyway. Other interesting soups are Preserved Szechuan Vegetable with shredded pork and Sizzling Rice Soups with shrimp or chicken which are prepared at the table by the waitperson accompanied by a cacophony of sounds and much steam; spectacular and good enough.

For appetizers we have sampled the Pan Fried Ravioli and their South/Central Chinese cousins, the Szechuan Dumplings. A staple in Hong Kong, King Sing's Pan Fried Dumplings are crisp on the bottom, juicy noodle-dough wrapped semi-lunar shaped packages of garlicy ground pork and greens accompanied by the standard soy, vinegar, scallion and ginger dipping sauce; as good as anyone's. Even more unusual are the Szechuan Dumplings: an over-stuffed wonton poached and smothered in a creamy smooth peanut butter, hot chili oil and scallion sauce. We loved these, finally something as hot as we like. The ubiquitous Pu-Pu Platter is all right although on one visit we were confronted with some spare ribs that had spent far too much time in the steam table and might have been better served the day before. Chicken fingers were delicate, if a bit greasy, but without the half inch of doughy batter many restaurants feel compelled to bestow upon them.

Entrees at King Sing have been consistently good and attractively presented with an artistically arranged vegetable garnish. Selections begin with Moo Shi dishes; julienned meats or shrimp dry-fried with cabbage, cloud-ears and lilly buds, served with wafer-thin Mandarin Pancakes which are used to envelope the Moo Shi like a Burrito. We chose the Moo Shi Pork with bean paste sauce which was very acceptable but again, not hot enough. House Specialities are more elaborate and more expensive. All of those we have sampled have been well worth the price.

The menu is then divided into poultry, meat, seafood, vegetable and rice/noodle catagories with delicious sounding choices in each group. A word of caution to vegetarians: Vegetable dishes are not necessarily vegetarian as bits of meat may be added as secondary ingredients. On a whim and with a craving for the succulent and healthful little morsels, we ordered the Stir Fried Bean Sprouts and were rewarded with a garlicy and spicy/hot melange of sprouts and scallions that were outstanding. Chop Suey, sweet and sours, Foo Yungs, and fried rice are also available for those with traditional Cantonese tastes.

On the back of the menu are Gourmet Entrees which are large platters, generously portioned with three specialty dishes, a good sampler for two. Also on the back is a House Special Dinner which allows the chef to choose what you will be served for $9.00 per person. We found that a soup, Pu-Pu Platter, and four entrees was far in excess of what we needed for four of us and wished quantity could have been replaced with quality. We did appreciate the chefs courage in trying out some of his more esoteric concoctions on us. The kitchen will gladly honor requests such as no MSG or Meat, etc. All in all, the food at King Sing is well above average and our only wish is that the chef would make the Szechuan and Hunan dishes as peppery-hot as they should be.

Service is as good as can be expected for a new restaurant with waitpersons not well acquainted with the cuisine. The management would be well advised to educate the staff more thoroughly given that only one chef speaks English. We were served quickly, courteously, and personably on all of our visits.

Price is in the moderate range and a couple can easily come out well fed for $15 to $20 including a beer with dinner and tip. (No plastic money accepted yet.) Saturday dinner hours are very busy, week nights are preferable for those who like the atmosphere more tranquil. King Sing is a welcome addition to our limited choice of dining in the area. We hope they stick around longer than their predecessors.

A Different Day for First Graders

The first-grade class at Swift River experienced what is hoped was a memorable day on Thursday, January 16, honoring the memory and dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As the children prepared for an art class at 9:00 am, each of them was stuck with either a blue or green sticker and offered no explanation. During the art lesson, Blues were told to sit mysteriously together, received their supplies last, and had to sit more quietly than the Greens. Recess came next and the Greens lined-up first.

Reading time followed recess, and during the last 10 minutes of this, the Greens were allowed to put down their books and go to lunch. The Blues were told to continue working, and needed to clean up after the Greens before going to lunch. Protests of "It's not fair" began to surface.

The Blues were seated at tables in the back of the lunch room and told, once again, to clean up after the Greens. The Blues became furious and pounded their fists on the tables; some of them began to cry. Tension was mounting when a woman on the kitchen staff rallied behind the Blues. "Come on, let's show them we're bigger than they are. We'll clean up their mess just to show them they can't get us down." The Blues' spirits lifted, the tears stopped. Meanwhile, the Greens were uncomfortable with their elevated status, most of them acting uneasy and quiet.

The kids returned to the classroom from another recess. The Blues were ready to end what many of them called a "bad joke." The Greens were ready to end it, too. Everyone was unhappy with this "different" day, and wanted things back to "normal." They sat in a circle and began to talk, some of the children still harboring tears. The Blues spoke of how "unfair" everything was, and how "angry" they felt. A few of the Greens kept saying how bad they felt for the Blues, and that they had wanted to clean up their own trays at lunch to help the Blues.

Once the children had vented their feelings, they were eager for an explanation. They were told about Dr. King and his struggles to end the kind of feelings between blacks and whites that the Blues and Greens had experienced. "A black person can never take their color off," they were told, "and they felt like a Blue much of the time."

The kids were silent for a moment, visibly moved by that thought after experiencing how it must feel. There was more talk of segregation, slaves and the many faces of discrimination in our society. Each child was emotionally involved in the discussion. One of them said, "If I see a black person it's just like regular. Doesn't matter what color you are, just what you're like!"

The kids then took a break from the discussion to write stories and draw pictures about how they felt. When finished, they listened to a story about Dr. King as the Blue/Green division disappeared. Solidarity returned to the classroom in a hug or a touch, the cuddling of uninhibited children, as they remembered the unfair feelings of a "different" day, and the memory of a man who tried to erase them.

Robert Streeter
Amy Carter

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a black. The blacks had to work for the whites. It is like the Blues. I hated being Blue. It was stupid.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was good. The blacks had to be slaves. It was sad. Don't cry. He helped the blacks.

One day Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said I have a dream that everybody will be treated the same. One day he got shot on the balcony of a motel. It was sad because he was helping the blacks. I wish he was alive because I wanted to see him.

by Nathan Boland

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted to help black people learn how to fight back peacefully, and to talk with white people. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. talked with the white people.

People killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. If they had not killed him, he would still be alive.

by Shoshi Gross

Martin Luther King Day At New Salem Academy

On Monday, January 20th, New Salem Academy observed Martin Luther King Day, not by closing our doors, but by opening them as widely as possible. Our Teach-in included films, discussion, and special speakers, and attracted over 100 people! We were particularly pleased to host The Meeting School, (a Quaker school in Rindge, NH), some students and staff from Maple Valley School, local residents, and people from as far away as Amherst who simply saw our posters.

We began the day with a lecture by NSA History teacher Daniel Botkin who reviewed with passion the basic history of the Civil rights movement. We then saw a mid-60's film about the movement, entitled "New Mood." We were then fortunate to have as a guest speaker Prof. Michael Thelwell from UMass, who combined a sweeping social analysis with personal anecdotes about the lives of King, E.D. Nixon, and others involved in the struggle for racial justice.

The miracle of the loaves and fishes was reenacted at lunch time, when we somehow managed to feed all the people who came, thanks in large part to NSA parents. After lunch, Wally & Juanita Nelson shared their views on non-violence as a "total way of life" to a rapt audience. We ended the day with a film on black poets ("Now Is The Time"), discussion, and a circle of song and compassion for all beings. In all, it was a day of enlightenment and rededication to the ongoing fight against racism both at home and abroad.

Let me take one last paragraph to highlight some upcoming NSA events. We are sponsoring two films in collaboration with the New Salem Recreation Commission. Keep your eyes peeled for posters with complete information soon. A Valentine's Day Dance will be held at NSA on Friday, Feb. 14th: admission $2.00 ($1.50 if you wear something red!). Again, be on the lookout for posters!

Nathaniel Needle

Quabbin Visitors Center

In response to the surprising number of people from the Quabbin Valley who regularly drop into the Quabbin Visitor Center to reminisce, the Visitor Center will sponsor "Tuesday Afternoon Tea" every Tuesday from 2-4. Former residents of the Swift River Valley are invited to attend these informal gatherings.

Scenes and buildings from the Swift River Valley prior to the flooding for the Quabbin Reservoir will be on display at the Quabbin Visitor Information Center through the end of February. Two other exhibits will be at the Center: A portable display titled "The Quabbin Valley - A Pictorial Odyssey - 100 Years 1887-1986" and a custom-built, lockable display case which will house Quabbin Valley artifacts and other items including natural history exhibits.

Institution Educates Whole Person

Right in your own backyard lives a very different kind of high school. It's a place where students and staff still remember that old gibberish folks use to spout about "educating the whole person." Smack alongside the algebra and the history is some other stuff about valuing ourselves as loving, powerful people, resolving our conflicts non-violently, and listening to each other.

It's a funny mix. Take today, for example. Morning meeting was run (we say "facilitated") by Trevor, a freshperson who by this time has learned the ins and outs of group dynamics. He moves the agenda along, smoothly passing his role over to Bob, a senior, for an issue that Bob really wants to lead discussion on, then taking it back. We discuss feelings, ideas, and probe the possibilities of improving our sense of community.

Next period, I'm reviewing how to outline an expository 5-10 page paper with the Humanities class: two juniors, two seniors. Next, I'm rehearsing the Actors class in the scenes they will hopefully be ready to perform for the school next Friday. Now I'm typing this article. During lunch, I'll try to grab some time to play piano and chat with a few students.

After that, my Playwrights class will be about ready to start writing scenes to be performed by the Actors class (we've been doing character exercises). Then I'll make a quick trip to the men's room to...do my clean-up job! Everybody at NSA has one. My Tarot class meets next - we're learning the meanings of five new cards today. I'm looking forward to the end of the day, when we share poems, compositions, and other work we've created during the week. Maybe I'll share this article!

Nathaniel Needle

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Selectmen's Minutes

Oct. 15, 1985

Selectmen received a call from Florie Blackbird requesting permission for her assistant to have a set of keys to the Town Hall. Permission granted.

Jay Blackbird was present. He requested clarification of payroll for the road crew. The Board clarified the payroll situation for the Road Commission. Jay Blackbird also informed the Board of a program Franklin County Jail has of hiring inmates to do cutting on Main Streets.

Montague Rd. from West Street to the Montague Town Line will be closed for construction from 7 am Oct. 21, to 6:30 pm Nov. 22. Clerk will send notices to Chief Chase, Fire Chief Ricketts, Frank Kuzmeskus Bus Co. and put notice in the Greenfield Recorder.

David Walsh was present to insure that the Board of Health Article was put on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. He also informed the Board that the dump fill would not be useful for road fill.

The Town Treasurer requested that the Board inform other Town Departments to minimize expenses for the next few weeks. The Board agreed to do this.

Joe Biemand offered the Board a space for heavy metal debris. The Board of Health will be working with him in figuring out a way for his offer to work. Chairman Slavas will get more information about the legalities in this matter.

There is a potential of Farmers Home Admn. monies available for the town Common Water Project. Admn. Asst. Deb Radway set up a meeting with Farmers Home Agent here at the Town Hall Tuesday afternoon October 22.

Oct. 22, 1985

The Board Discussed the Mass. Snowmobile and Recreational Vehicle Laws, Chap. 90B of the General Laws Sec. 25 & 26. These laws will be posted and enforced.

The Board discussed and agreed to posting more signs informing the townspeople that Montague Rd. will be closed for construction.

There will be no monies from Farmers Home

Selectman Idoine reported on a meeting he attended in Northampton on Strategies and Ideas on Controlled Growth and Developments. He discussed various options for development and road maintenance.

The Board has scheduled Oct. 30 to survey roads that may be discontinued.

Procedures for addressing grievances to Wendell Town Departments was approved and adopted as amended by the Board. Selectman Idoine will type and post the Grievance Procedures.

Chairman Slavas gave the Board a report on the helicopter search.

The Board discussed the possibility of a contest for best Town Letterhead. Idoine will prepare this and a selection will be picked two weeks after publication date of the Wendell Post in December.

Oct. 29, 1985

The Board received a letter from Gale Marceau, Municipal Assistance Coordinator informing them that the deadline for Wiring and Plumbing Inspectors Incentive Aid Grant is Nov. 15. Admn. Asst. informed the Board that the cost of having Gas/Plumbing?Wiring Inspectors would cost around $1,200 per yr. with the state paying 75% the first year, 50% second yr., 25% third yr.

Chairman Slavas informed the Board that the School Bldg. Study Comm. meetings have had very few people show up.

The Board discussed the expansion of Swift River School. They discussed the projected enrollment, costs and the overall financial impact on the town for the years to come. Chairman Slavas will go to the next School Bldg. Study Comm. meeting.

The Board will send responses to those who filed formal complaints about the helicopter search of Sept. 8.

Selectman Idoine presented to the Board a notice of the contest for best town stationary letterhead.

Bruce Cohen sat in on meeting. He requested a copy of the Special Town Meeting Warrant. He received one.

Mrs. Lucille Lewis came by and asked the Board to fly the Town Flag more often.

The Board discussed and concidered alternate locations for the center of town. No decision was made.

The Board discussed buying a answering machine for the Town Hall. Sltmn. Idoine will shop around to find the best service for the Town Hall.

Nov. 5, 1985

Chrmn. Slavas made copies of the Town Grievance policy for all town Depts. Discussed the possibility of setting a deadline for finding a lot for the town's Municipal Bldgs. The Board requests from the townspeople to notify any Selectman if they have or know of any land available for a Town Municipal Bldg. The Board made an informal deadline of the end of March. 5 - 8 acres near the center of town.

The Board received a formal complaint about the helicopter search of Sept. 8. A Copy of the report will be sent.

Jonathon von Ranson dropped off a letter he will discuss with the Board later this evening.

The Board received a letter from attorney David Singer requesting Municipal Lien Certificates for properties which have been or are being transferred as of 10/17/85.

The Board received a call from Jim Joslyn of Bay State Forestry Service informing them of more trees to be cut at the town dump. The Board amended the cutting contract for the town dump lot to include 50 additional cords.

The Board discussed the possibility of having a municipal bldg. on town owned land on Montague Rd. They discussed the cost of electrical poles vs. underground cable.

The Board discussed their position on the school remodeling and addition article. The Board supports a bid for 200 - 215 students with facilities for 250.

Received approval from Mass. D.P.W. to spend an additional $66,000 for Arch Street Bridge. The $66,000 will be fully reimbursed by the State.

Nov. 12, 1985

As requested by Robert Ellis the Clerk informed the Board that Mr. Ellis would like to be informed in advance of any blasting that may be incurred during the Montague Rd. project. The Board will pass this request to the Road Comm. who will notify Mr. Ellis.

Joe Hartjens was present to discuss buying bank run gravel for the Montague Rd. project.

David Wilder inquired about a bill. He discussed with the Board plans for a recycling shed for the dump.

Chmn. Slavas and Deb Radway went to Farmers Home Loan to inquire about financing a loan for building the addition and remodeling of Swift River School. They discussed possibilities of a financial plan. Farmers is willing to talk with Len Lubinsky.

The Board voted unanimously to request from Chief Chase regularly scheduled mtgs. to be held the first Tues. of even months.

The Board requests any office or citizen who has an article for the Town Warrant to please submit it to the Board no later than Oct. 17.

Nov. 19, 1985

Dorthy McGovern requested permission to use the Town Hall Dec. 21 for a Pot Luck Benifit for Big Mountain. Permission granted.

Wade Powling came by to inform the Board that he noticed lights were on the graders. Sltmn. Lewis called Bradley to inform him and requested the lights be turned off.

Received communication that Erving Engineers underbudgeted the project by $50,000. Chmn. Slavas will write a letter Tigh and Bond requesting a meeting for Dec. 10 to discuss continuing problems with the Arch St. Bridge Project.

Jay Blackbird informed the Board that the Montague Rd. project needs more time. He said Dec. 27 should be enough time.

Sltmn. Idoine inquired about getting some type of switch to turn off the answering machine from upstairs.

The Board discussed the fire arms policy. They voted unanimously to amend draft #7.

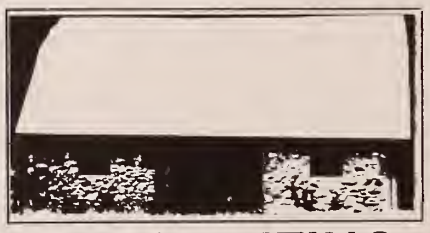
The Board Discussed articles for the Spe Special Town Meeting, and buying land for a municipal Bldg.

Sylvia Wetherby and Jonathan von Ranson requested to use the Town Hall Thurs. of every 4th week to receive thier buying co-ops food delivery. Permission granted.

Jonathan von Ranson left a letter with the Board regarding the helicopter search. He requested the Board set up a meeting with Chief Chase so questions regarding the helicopter incident could be asked directly to Chief Chase.

Respectfully,

Regina Howarth, Clerk



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